



WISCONSIN FARM REPORTER

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January Milk Production

Wisconsin milk production totaled 2.16 billion pounds in January, up 97 million pounds from a year ago. Milk per cow averaged 1,715 pounds, 4 percent higher than last January. The number of milk cows in the state, at 1.26 million, was up 1,000 from last month, but 5,000 more than at this time last year. As of February 1, 2010, Wisconsin had 12,892 licensed milk cow herds, down 37 from last month and down 507 from February 2009.

Milk production in January in the 23 major states fell less than 1 percent from the previous January. Milk per cow averaged 1,782 pounds, a rise of 30 pounds over last year. The number of milk cows, at 8.32 million head, was 4,000 more than December, but 191,000 fewer than last January.

Nine of the 23 major milk producing states had higher milk production when compared with last January, while 13 states had lower production. Indiana had no change in production. Washington and Wisconsin had the highest gains in production, at 5 percent, followed by Minnesota with a 4 percent gain.

Five states, Arizona, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin, added milk cows from December to January. California, Michigan, Missouri, and Texas, on the other hand, had fewer cows in January.

January Milk Production

State	Milk cows 1/		Rate per cow 2/		Production 2/		Production % chnge 2010/09
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	
	Thousand head		Pounds		Million pounds		Percent
WI	1,255	1,260	1,645	1,715	2,064	2,161	+5
CA	1,832	1,760	1,885	1,915	3,453	3,370	-2
ID	554	550	1,810	1,850	1,003	1,018	+1
MI	354	353	1,865	1,915	660	676	+2
MN	468	470	1,620	1,670	758	785	+4
NM	334	318	2,015	2,015	673	641	-5
NY	624	610	1,670	1,685	1,042	1,028	-1
PA	550	541	1,630	1,630	897	882	-2
TX	430	410	1,780	1,805	765	740	-3
23-state total	8,506	8,315	1,752	1,782	14,902	14,817	-1

1/Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO.

Wisconsin Sets New Milk Production Record in 2009

Wisconsin's 1.26 million milk cows produced 25.2 billion pounds of milk in 2009. This represents a 3 percent increase from 2008 and is a new record for Wisconsin. Statewide, milk per cow averaged 20,079 pounds, 533 pounds more than a year earlier. In 2009, Wisconsin accounted for 13 percent of the nation's production.

Nationally, 189 billion pounds of milk were produced in 2009, down less than 1 percent from 2008. Average milk per cow grew to 20,576, up 181 pounds from the previous year. The number of milk cows in the U.S. decreased in 2009. There were 9.20 million cows, 114,000 fewer than in the previous year.

California continues to be the nation's top milk producer with 39.5 billion pounds in 2009. Wisconsin was second with 25.2 billion pounds, followed by New York with 12.4 billion pounds. Idaho and Pennsylvania remained in fourth and fifth places with 12.2 and 10.6 billion pounds of milk, respectively.

The average number of dairy farms licensed to sell milk in Wisconsin during 2009 was 13,170, down 560 from the previous year. The U.S. total was 54,942 licensed dairy herds, a loss of 2,185 herds.

Annual Milk Cows and Production, Major States and United States, 2008-2009

State	Milk cows 1/		Rate per cow 2/		Production 2/		Production % chnge 2009/08
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	
	Thousand head		Pounds		Million pounds		Percent
WI	1,252	1,257	19,546	20,079	24,472	25,239	+3
CA	1,844	1,796	22,344	22,000	41,203	39,512	-4
ID	549	550	22,432	22,091	12,315	12,150	-1
MI	350	355	22,180	22,445	7,763	7,968	+3
MN	464	469	18,927	19,230	8,782	9,019	+3
NM	338	325	23,269	24,320	7,865	7,904	n.c.
NY	626	619	19,859	20,071	12,432	12,424	n.c.
PA	549	545	19,262	19,360	10,575	10,551	n.c.
TX	418	423	20,134	20,898	8,416	8,840	+5
US	9,315	9,201	20,395	20,576	189,982	189,320	n.c.

1/Average number during year, excluding heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO.

Egg Production

For the 12-month period ending November 30, 2009, Wisconsin ranked 18th nationally in egg production, with 1.35 billion eggs produced, up 11 percent from the previous 12-month period. The average number of layers in the state increased 7 percent from 4.55 million in 2008 to 4.86 million in 2009. The number of eggs produced per layer in Wisconsin was 278 in 2009, 10 eggs per layer higher than the national average and an increase of 10 eggs per layer over the previous year.

Total U.S. egg production was 90.4 billion eggs for the 12-month period ending November 30, 2009. This is an increase from 2008 of less than 1 percent. The average number of layers in the U.S. dropped one half percent from 339.1 million to 337.4 million. Iowa had the highest average number of layers at 53.8 million and produced the most eggs at 14.5 billion. Ohio was second in both average number of layers and eggs produced, with 27.1 million layers and 7.39 billion eggs. Montana led the nation in average number of eggs produced per layer at 305, 14 percent above the national average of 268 eggs produced per layer.



Egg Production Top 20 States with Published Numbers 1/

State	Average number of layers		Eggs per layer 2/		Total egg production	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	Thousand		Number		Millions	
IA	53,523	53,801	269	269	14,407	14,475
OH	26,233	27,054	273	273	7,168	7,392
PA	21,531	22,591	288	288	6,189	6,509
IN	24,117	23,630	271	273	6,523	6,460
CA	20,262	19,652	260	270	5,271	5,304
TX	18,626	18,576	266	268	4,954	4,985
GA	18,539	17,685	247	253	4,576	4,467
NC	12,427	12,636	247	249	3,063	3,148
AR	13,371	12,343	235	238	3,139	2,935
MI	9,221	9,839	288	283	2,653	2,784
MN	10,028	10,186	276	273	2,767	2,777
NE	9,731	9,620	285	286	2,777	2,749
FL	10,385	9,847	265	271	2,749	2,670
AL	9,416	9,223	228	228	2,150	2,106
MO	6,854	7,144	275	276	1,885	1,973
WA	5,584	6,107	275	279	1,533	1,705
MS	6,290	5,911	240	244	1,511	1,440
WI	4,551	4,858	268	278	1,220	1,350
IL	4,827	4,600	271	272	1,309	1,253
NY	3,975	4,078	294	292	1,167	1,192
U.S.	339,131	337,376	266	268	90,040	90,359

1/Annual estimates cover the period Dec. 1 previous year thru Nov. 30. 2/Total egg production divided by average number of layers on hand. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

Farm Labor

The Lake Region (Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota) employed 46,000 agricultural workers during the week of January 10 - 16, 2010. During the reference week, some farmers in the Lake States were able to take advantage of above average temperatures and get some of their late corn harvested.

The average number of hours worked per employee in the Lake States was 33.8. The average wage rate for all hired agricultural workers was \$11.22 per hour, up 20 cents from the January 2009 reference week. An employee is classified as a livestock worker if they are hired to primarily tend livestock, milk cows, care for poultry, or operate machinery on livestock farms. Livestock workers in the Lake Region earned an average of \$9.97 per hour during the reference week. If an employee is hired primarily to plant and harvest crops, including operating machinery on crop farms, they are considered a field worker. Field workers in the Lake Region averaged \$11.12 per hour during the January reference week.

There were 767,000 people hired on U.S. farms and ranches the week of January 10 - 16, 2010. Of these workers, 587,000 were hired directly by farm operators. The remaining 180,000 people were hired for agricultural services. Some examples of agricultural service workers would be custom harvesters, veterinarians, and artificial insemination technicians. The average number of hours worked for all hired workers was 37.3. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.06 per hour, up 13 cents from the January 2009 reference week. Field workers earned an average of \$10.14 per hour, while livestock workers averaged \$10.26 per hour.

Cold Storage Stocks, United States

Commodity	January 31, 2009	December 31, 2009	January 31, 2010	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
CHEESE				
American	533,402	584,981	595,329	+12
Swiss	23,148	24,791	25,946	+12
Other natural	325,826	356,986	359,520	+10
Total	882,376	966,758	980,795	+11
BUTTER	176,526	133,022	169,818	-4
FROZEN				
Beef	462,647	430,280	432,816	-6
Pork	606,936	471,125	495,610	-18
Chicken	694,433	633,290	625,258	-10
Turkey	446,197	261,838	299,884	-33

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

Wisconsin Farm Numbers Unchanged from Last Year

The number of farms in Wisconsin in 2009 was 78,000. This is unchanged from 2008. Total land in farms also remained unchanged from last year at 15.2 million acres, average farm size remains at 195 acres.

By economic size group in Wisconsin, the highest sales class and the lowest sales class decreased in number of farms from last year, while two of the middle sales classes increased and one remained unchanged. For 2009, there were 38,800 farms with sales of \$1,000 - \$9,999, a decrease of 200 farms. The largest sales category, with sales of \$500,000 or more, also decreased by 200 to 3,800 farms. Farms with sales of \$250,000 to \$499,999, increased by 300 to 5,500 farms. Farms with sales of \$100,000 - \$249,999 increased 100 to 9,400 farms, and farms with sales of \$10,000-\$99,999 remained unchanged from 2008 at 20,500 farms.

The number of farms in the U.S. in 2009 at 2.20 million is virtually unchanged from 2008. Total land in farms, at 919.8 million acres, decreased 110 thousand acres from 2008. The average farm size was 418 acres, unchanged from last year.

Nationally, three sales groups gained farms, while two sales groups lost farms. The largest economic sales class decreased by 1,280 to 124,720 farms. Lower commodity prices and smaller value of sales contributed to the decrease. The next highest category, \$250,000 - \$499,999 in sales, grew by 1,120 to 99,620 farms. The bulk of the nation's farms, 56 percent of the total, had gross sales of \$1,000 - \$9,999 in 2008.

The North Central region is made up of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. This region had 36 percent of the U.S. farms and was second to the South in total number of farms. The North Central region had the highest number of farms in the three highest sales groups, while the South region had the most farms in the two lowest sales groups.

A farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year". Government payments are included in sales. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or other government programs are counted as farms.

**FARMS BY ECONOMIC SALES CLASS:
Wisconsin, 2008- 2009**

Economic class gross value of sales	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average size Of farms	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	Number		Thousand acres		Acres	
\$1,000-\$9,999	39,000	38,800	2,700	2,400	69	62
\$10,000-\$99,999	20,500	20,500	3,300	3,200	161	156
\$100,000-\$249,999	9,300	9,400	2,700	2,700	290	287
\$250,000-\$499,999	5,200	5,500	2,600	2,800	500	509
\$500,000 & over	4,000	3,800	3,900	4,100	975	1,079
Total	78,000	78,000	15,200	15,200	195	195

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

2008 Organic Production Survey Information Released

NASS recently completed the USDA's first wide-scale survey of organic producers. It was undertaken in direct response to the growing interest in organics among consumers, farmers, businesses, policymakers and others.

The 2008 Organic Production Survey counted 14,540 organic farms and ranches in the United States, comprising 4.1 million acres of land. Wisconsin was second in the nation with 1,222 organic farms. Wisconsin farms utilized 195,603 acres of land.

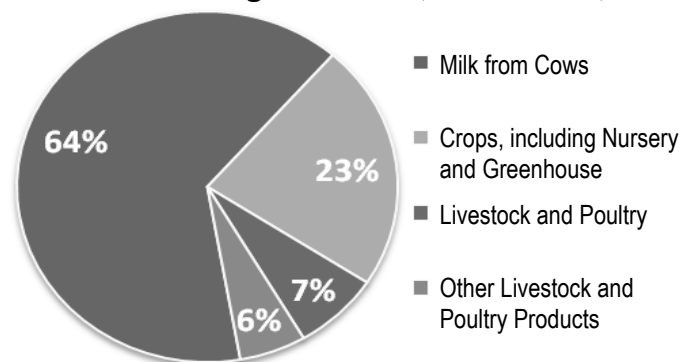
Wisconsin organic sales totaled \$132.76 million, the fifth highest in the nation. Sixty-four percent of organic sales in Wisconsin were from milk from cows. Nationwide, 2008 organic sales totaled \$3.16 billion.

Most Wisconsin organic producers sold their products locally, with 56 percent of sales taking place less than 100 miles from the farm. Contrary to popular belief, only a small percentage of organic sales are direct to consumer. In Wisconsin just 6 percent of sales were direct to consumers, via farm stands, farmers' markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's), and other arrangements, while over 75 percent of Wisconsin organic sales were to whole-sale channels, including processors, millers and packers, and grower cooperatives. Just over 4 percent of Wisconsin sales were direct-to-retail buyers such as natural food stores, supermarkets, and restaurants.

More than 80 percent of Wisconsin respondents indicated that they plan to maintain or increase their organic production over the next five years.

Complete results of the 2008 Organic Production Survey are available at: www.agcensus.usda.gov

Percent of Total Organic Sales, Wisconsin, 2008



Total 2008 Sales: \$132,764,000

2009 Crop Production Values

The value of principal crops produced in Wisconsin in 2009 is estimated to be worth \$3.51 billion, down from \$3.57 billion in 2008, but up from \$3.48 billion in 2007. Commercial vegetables accounted for \$198 million of the total value, fruits and nuts for \$239 million, and field and miscellaneous crops made up the remaining \$3.07 billion in value for 2009.

The price of Wisconsin's 2009 corn crop was down 19 cents from the previous marketing year, averaging \$3.70 per bushel. The total value of the corn crop was \$1.66 billion. Nationally, corn also sold for an average \$3.70 per bushel and had a total value of \$48.6 billion.

Wisconsin's 2009 soybean crop was valued at \$612 million. Soybean prices averaged \$9.45 per bushel, down 35 cents from last year. Nationally, the soybean crop was valued at \$31.8 billion, based on an average selling price of \$9.45 per bushel.

The value of Wisconsin dry alfalfa hay production was \$376 million, down from \$458 million in 2008. The average price per ton in 2009 was \$97.00. The value for all other hay types was \$38.6 million, down sharply from \$60.0 million in 2008. The average price of \$69.50 per ton was down from \$79.00 in 2008.

The value of a crop is its average sale price times total production, and does not include allowance or adjustments for commodities under government loan at the end of the marketing year, commodities forfeited to the Commodity Credit Corporation, loan deficiency payments, direct and counter cyclical payments, or disaster payments. Preliminary market year average prices for 2009 are based on price data through December 2009 with allowances made for the remainder of the crop left to be marketed.

Wisconsin Crop Values

Crop	Unit	Market Year Average Price per Unit			Value of Production		
		2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
		Dollars			1,000 dollars		
Principal Crops	-	-	-	-	3,483,346	3,567,915	3,507,379
Commercial Vegetables	-	-	-	-	152,506	208,241	197,854
Fruits and Nuts	-	-	-	-	225,802	283,053	238,575
Field and Misc Crops	-	-	-	-	3,105,038	3,076,621	3,070,950
Corn	bu.	4.11	3.89	3.70	1,819,908	1,534,838	1,658,673
Soybeans	bu.	9.83	9.80	9.45	549,399	545,370	612,360
Oats	bu.	2.46	2.82	2.05	26,371	33,220	27,183
Barley	bu.	2.70	3.57	2.70	3,540	5,783	3,983
Winter Wheat	bu.	5.30	5.43	4.10	97,308	120,057	87,822
Alfalfa Hay	ton	89.00	113.00	97.00	331,080	457,650	375,875
Other Hay	ton	58.00	79.00	69.50	38,976	60,040	38,573
Dry Beans	cwt.	38.00	53.50	39.40	3,496	7,276	5,004
All Potatoes	cwt.	7.80	11.30	8.50	219,648	290,749	246,330
Maple Syrup 1/	gal.	35.70	39.10	-	3,392	5,865	-
Peppermint Oil	lb.	14.20	17.40	14.20	3,848	3,097	2,613
Spearmint Oil	lb.	13.40	17.30	15.30	590	519	428

1/2009 estimate published in the June Crop Production report. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

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